

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

Thursday, November 19, 2015

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Michael S. Pinto Conference Room

Members Present:

Theresa Spengler, Chairman

Kellie DiPalma Simeone, Vice-Chairman

Douglas Arnold

Liana Fenton

William O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent

Raquel Pellerin, Business Manager

Peter Anderson, Director of Facilities/Transportation and Safety

Benjamin Scungio, School Department Attorney

Executive Session was called to order at 4:30 p.m. All School Committee Members were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 5:54 p.m. Mrs. Spengler announced that there was a unanimous vote to approve safety plans for the schools.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To seal the minutes of Executive Session. Unanimous vote.

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. Administrative staff members present were Beth Hayes, Linda Beaupre, Donna Chelf, and Michelle Fonseca.

Mrs. Spengler welcomed the teachers in the audience and thanked them for attending the meeting. She said that the School Committee continues to work diligently with teachers and looks forward to coming up with a plan for successful negotiations.

Mrs. Spengler then commented on the computer investigation. The laptop purchases were made in good faith. The School Committee invested in the computers using \$350,000 in Capital Improvement dollars and the remainder was from budget savings. At the December 9th School Committee Meeting, there will be a report on the results of the school department's, independent internal review. Mrs. Spengler welcomed the Town Council to attend.

Mrs. Spengler then addressed the July 17, 2015 memorandum from Town Administrator Shawn Brown and Finance Director Lynne Dible.

She said that erroneous comments were made at a recent Town Council Meeting. No one from the School Department withheld information. The document referenced was an internal, incomplete working document and it was shared with the Town Administrator and Finance Director on that day of request, July 10, 2015. She also stated that the School Department offered to sit down with Town, but they declined. Mrs. Spengler firmly believes it is time for all to commit to working together in the best interest of the school children and taxpayers.

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SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“PARCC – Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers”

Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano reported to the School Committee on the PARCC results. The assessments stemmed from RIDE’s adoption of the Common Core Standards in 2010. Middletown adopted the standards, which have to be taught by law. In the spring of 2015 there were two assessments; Performance Based Assessment in March and End of Year Assessment in May. This

school year there will only be one assessment in April. The assessment is administered to grades 3-10 in ELA and Math. Students in grades 9 and 10 were administered course assessments. All PARCC assessments were administered on a computer in a computer lab. Administration and principals attended a very detailed presentation.

The 2014-2015 school year was the first year of implementation. The lower test scores are normal during the first year of implementation of a new testing assessment. PARCC uses five performance levels (4 or 5 met/exceed standards). The scaled score range is from 650 to 850. Regarding participation rates – there were not a large number of refusals like in other districts. Middletown had a 93.07% participation rate. The elementary rates were better than the high school participation rates. Math participation rate was higher than ELA.

In ELA, the district was at 44.96%. In Math, the district was at 34.16%. Both of these percentages exceeded the State results.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

•American Education Week – A teacher accepted the proclamation for American Education Week on behalf of the staff. This year's theme is "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility".

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for November 19, 2015.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted the following items of information:

- Band Room dedication**
- Supporting Military Children in Our Schools Workshop**
- Middletown High School Hall of Fame Induction**
- Minutes of Newport Area Career & Technical Center Superintendent’s Meeting. There are questions about payment for these students.**

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CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Jennifer Azevedo, Assistant Executive Director, NEARI, notifying the School Committee that NEA Middletown wishes to meet for the purpose of negotiating a successor agreement to the contract, which expired August 31, 2015, to cover 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and

2017-2018.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

•Approval of Minutes of the following minutes:

oOctober 15, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting and Executive Session

oOctober 30, 2015 Special School Committee Meeting

•Approval of the following vouchers:

1097 10/5/2015 \$970.90

1096 10/5/2015 \$73,447.98

1104 10/9/2015 \$10,524.00

1118 10/16/2015 \$1,522.95

1117 10/16/2015 \$115,688.84

1116 10/16/2015 \$8,019.00

1115 10/16/2015 \$413,407.79

1138 10/21/2015 \$3,731.42

1137 10/21/2015 \$1,435.20

1119 10/22/2015 \$13,935.41

1120 10/23/2015 \$213,204.76

1123 10/29/2015 \$2,573.01

1122 10/29/2015 \$4,999.48

1121 10/29/2015 \$19,872.00

1144 10/30/2015 \$10.00

1134 10/30/2015 \$101,938.93

1133 10/30/2015 \$6,511.17

Total \$1,328,039.03

•Approval of Quarterly Report

•Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

Jacqueline Zahm Grades K-5 STEM Co-Coordinator

Joshua Beagan Grades K-5 STEM Co-Coordinator

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

David Fontaine Virtual High School Advisor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12, 2015

**Megan Almeida English Language Reading Intervention Teacher (K-8)
Long Term Sub**

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 20, 2015

Eric Rapoza Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 27, 2015

Jamie Long Data Analyst (Part-Time)

**J.H. GAUDET SCHOOL ADVISOR APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE
NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

Kristen Pacheco Student Council Co-Advisor

Ashley Yanek Student Council Co-Advisor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Rosemary Murphy Bus Monitor

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Megan Almeida Grades K-8 Intervention Coordinator

Megan Sparadeo Grades 9-12 Intervention Co-Coordinator

Lee-Ann Wells Grades 9-12 Intervention Co-Coordinator

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2015

Leah Caron 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 23, 2015

Jennifer Cheng 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

Paul Kelly Bus Monitor

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COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Tim Brown 6th/7th/8th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach

Keith Holubenko 6th/7th/8th Grade Girls' Basketball Coach

Kevin Lendrum Boys' Varsity Basketball Coach

Raleigh Brennan Boys' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach

Michael Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach

David Pritchard Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball Coach

Rick Francis Varsity Wrestling Coach

Andrew Bulk Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach

Shannon Farrell Varsity Gymnastics Coach

Rebecca Duggan Coed Varsity Swim Coach

Terri DiGiovanni Coed Assistant Varsity Swim Coach

Jennifer Mahoney Competition Cheerleading Coach

Christopher Winnes Head Co-op Hockey Coach

**VOLUNTEER COACHING APPOINTMENTS EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER
30, 2015**

Robin Ramey Girls' Basketball Volunteer Coach

Zachary Yates Girls' Basketball Volunteer Coach

Robert Lendrum Boys' Basketball Volunteer Coach

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 30, 2015

Theresa DeVine 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 13, 2015

Angela Varacalli 4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School

TRANSFER EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2015

**Denise Porter From 3-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School to
4-Hour Teacher Assistant, Aquidneck School**

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE POLICIES UPDATES (3030 and 3065 2nd Readings)

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the updates to finance policy #3030 “Budget Implementation, Monitoring and Transfers” and #3065 “Purchasing and Bid Procedures”. Unanimous vote.

DIRECTOR OF STEM K-5 1ST READING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the Director of STEM K-5 Policy, 1st Reading. Unanimous vote.

FIELD TRIP POLICY REVISION (#6150)

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee approve the revisions to policy #6150 “Field Trips and Excursions”. Unanimous vote.

Revisions to the policy are as follows:

- Minimum supervision ratios (adults to students)**

- First Aid and CPR training required
- Chaperones expected to stay with students
- Chaperones must be 21 year of age or over and must pass a BCI check
- No field trips during State testing and AP testing

REAFFIRM COMPUTER PURCHASES THROUGH TIPS

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee reaffirm the computer purchases through Tips. Unanimous vote.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee remove the Uniform Vendor Request Action Item. Unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

•**ROBINSON, GREEN, BERETTA STAGE 1 PLAN – A letter was sent to the R.I. Department of Education to apply for Stage 1. Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Kraeger attended a meeting with Dr. Joseph DaSilva and submitted the Stage 1 application on November 16th. This is pending School Committee approval in December. It will then be shared with the Town Council and the Core Committee will be re-establish. Mrs. Kraeger said that Robinson, Green & Beretta did an excellent job of**

assessing the buildings.

NEW BUSINESS

- BUDGET PREPARATIONS** – A memo was received from the Town with proposed budget dates. The only conflict is Monday, April 18th, which is during April vacation.

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The Town Council will have a budget kick-off workshop on December 7th. The Town Administrator will submit the proposed budget to the Town Council on April 1st. The School Committee will submit their proposed budget to the Town Administrator on March 23rd. Mrs. Simeone suggested scheduling school events around these dates.

- ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS** – The Town Council has entered into a letter of intent with the company. It is a very interesting concept with a lot of potential, but needs to be studied a little more. A recommendation will be brought before the School Committee in December or January. This is an opportunity to engage with Energy Development Partners for solar farms. The farms would be located at the former Navy property, not on school property. Mr.

Anderson has met with the Town Administrator and we will model our participation after the Town. Bills will be provided to this company and they will analyze them for efficiency.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

•Curriculum – Middletown receives Federal Title I funds for Forest Avenue School, Gaudet Middle School and the Gaudet Learning Academy. We have been asked by RIDE to update our Title I policy, using their verbiage. There are restrictions as to what we have in policy since it is a Federal requirement. Title I dollars provide two staff members. There will be a meeting with parents of students in the program.

•Financial – For the month of October, the Chartwells program had a profit of \$13,700. The Quarterly Report was submitted in September. A total of \$164,317 has been received for support programs. The total expenditures to date are \$4,238,544, with \$38,014,118 encumbered. The 14-15 audit is finishing up. The single audit is complete and the annual audit is in the process of being completed. We need to make sure everything is in compliance with UCOA. The Business Office is providing monthly reports to the Town Finance Director. The Town will put our reports on www.opengovernment.com.

•Facilities – AHERA 6-month safety audits have been completed. Fire

alarm testing and indoor air quality testing have been completed. The Necessity of School Construction application needed to be submitted by November 16th. National Grid is offering significant incentives on energy projects with municipalities. They reviewed our facilities and are preparing a proposal focusing on updating the current fluorescent lighting to LED lighting. Regarding 2015-2016 Capital Improvement – the HVAC project at Oliphant project is slowing down to make sure we are accommodating the needs of the building. The Oliphant bell tower is almost complete. Mr. Anderson and staff have met with the Middletown Historical Society to ensure that the restoration of the cupola resembles its original state.

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

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REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton attended a new funding formula working group. There were about 60 participants who meet weekly. Representative Deb Ruggiero is on this committee. The group would like to tweak the

language in the formula.

NESDEC enrollment projections were received today. These need to be submitted with the Stage 1 application. Enrollment is level, with no great spikes or dips.

Mrs. Spengler wished all a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma Simeone, 2) Liana Fenton. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 7:19p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk